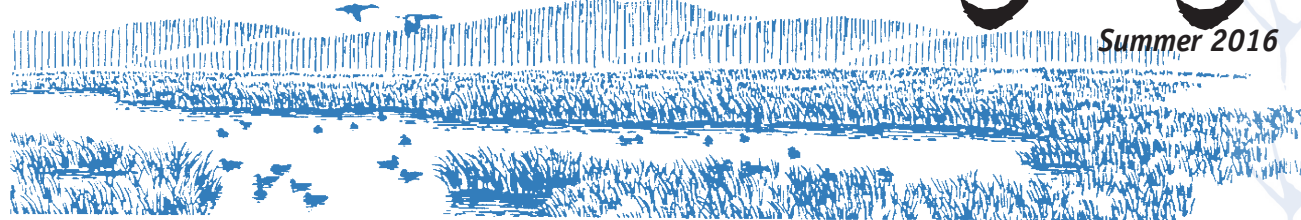


The Flyway

Summer 2016



Quarterly newsletter for Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually and Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuges

Inside...

Fairies, Beavers, Unicorns	1
On the Wing.....	2
Summer Programs	3
Junior Duck Stamp Contest.....	7
2016 Summer Lecture Series	8
Shorebird Festival	9
Critter Cart	10
Membership Spring 2016.....	11
Nisqually Watershed Festival!	12



Save the date!

Nisqually Watershed Festival will be held Saturday, September 24th at Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR

Fairies, Beavers, Unicorns ...

By Michael Schramm

Visitors long to see them. If they are lucky, and a furry brown head parts the surface of the pond trailing a wake of shimmering ripples, visitors often excitedly determine it is a beaver—they desperately want it to be a beaver—even if it is only a muskrat or an otter. Beavers hold a special place in the human imagination. A wood nymph, a Unicorn, there's no need to rely on these mythical beings. The same sense of wonder can be found here at the Refuge. When a beaver parts the surface of the pond, it inspires wonder in visitors of all ages.

During the summer months, beavers can reliably be seen in the evening, a couple hours before sunset. Whereas they are ordinarily nocturnal, the short summer night forces them to be active during daylight hours. Using their strong, iron rich, orange-stained teeth, they forage for tree bark and cambium (soft tissue under the bark) from the smaller branches on the edges of the ponds. Last summer, a colony of eight beavers were seen at a single time: two adults, several one year olds, and some yearlings, called kits. They were essentially farming together, carefully selecting which trees to cut. Willows, once fallen, often continue to live and will send up more branches and denser

growth. New branches also sprout from the stump, creating more food to harvest.

A short walk around the Twin Barns Loop Trail will yield many signs of beaver activity, if you are looking for it. Of course there are the many fallen trees, the stumps whittled to a point. But there are

also beaver trails (a swath worn into the mud the width of the beaver's tail), fallen trees or scattered limbs denuded of bark, and scent mounds (piles of mud and debris scented with castoreum which the beavers use for marking the limits of their

territory). But, for many visitors, the dam is the most obvious indication that beavers are active on the Refuge.

The dam is located in the "borrow ditch" created by farm laborers as they built the adjacent dike in 1904. Being in a wetland, the borrow ditch quickly filled with water after it was dug and has since become part of the wetland habitat on the delta. The ditch connects the formerly isolated ponds together with a remnant slough channel. The beavers and other aquatic mammals have learned to use it like a highway, traveling about the wetlands. And not surprisingly, the beavers were quick to figure out where the borrow ditch fits into the hydrology of the area and determined the most effective location to build a dam. The relatively



A beaver feasts on Water Shield, one of its favorite snacks. Photo by Diane Claussen.

Continued on page 2

On the Wing

By Glynnis Nakai, Refuge Manager

A unique opportunity has presented itself with the passing of the Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act into Public Law (114-101) on December 18, 2015. Through this law the Refuge was renamed to Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge in honor of his contributions to salmon, their habitats and Tribal fishing rights. You will continue to see a mix of old and new names on signs, interpretive panels, and printed materials as we gradually make this transition.

The law also established the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial within the Refuge which is where the Treaty was signed on December 26, 1854. This is only the second National Memorial on a National Wildlife Refuge (the first was the Battle of Midway National Memorial in 2000); all other National Memorials are administered by the National Park Service. Although we currently interpret the Treaty in panels and volunteer-led walks, we have an opportunity to



further develop our programs in a collaborate effort with the four Treaty Tribes (Nisqually Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe). The significance of this partnership was put into perspective by Farron McCloud, Chairman of the Nisqually Tribal Council, at our most recent meeting with the Tribes when he said that this is the first time since the signing of the Treaty the four Tribes have come together at the table. Considering the Treaty was signed 162 years ago, that statement was powerful and set the stage for this new partnership.

The interpretive component of the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial is in its infancy and will continue to develop throughout the year. The Memorial site itself will remain closed to the public; however, the close proximity of the historic area and the Tribes' path to get there (McAllister Creek) allows the interpretation to be located along existing trails. We look forward to working with the Tribes on the implementation of the Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act, and will share our progress as we move forward. ✧

Beavers

From page 1

narrow channel is easy for them to dam and maintain. The dam floods an enormous area, affecting water levels all the way back to the pond behind the Visitor Center.

It would be tempting to allow beavers to have their way with the wetlands. The habitat they create is useful for a variety of other creatures—ponds host a complex web of life. More pond means more insects and more food for amphibians and birds. And beavers are good hosts, often sharing their dens with muskrats. But our freshwater

wetland here is small. In order to manage the wetland for the benefit of the largest variety of wildlife and birds and to keep the larger trees in our riparian forest alive, the Refuge has to limit the impact of our beavers. The goal is to find a perfect balance, beneficial to the beavers while still allowing us to meet our other objectives. Through the winter months, when we get most of our precipitation, it is necessary to breach their dam regularly—the beavers typically have it rebuilt within a few days.

It is said that beavers cannot tolerate the sound of running water. They compulsively pile up sticks and mud wherever the sound can be heard. But their activity is more nuanced and deliberate than that. Depending on their plans for an area, they will either clog up the various drainage culverts and waterworks of the refuge, or they will open up areas that were already blocked, chewing through the wood boards used by the Refuge to regulate water flow from one pond to the next. Their strategic manipulation of the natural environment is almost human like. They are the only other animal in the world that does this on such a large scale.

Visitors often ask about the location of the beaver lodge. There is a large lodge visible west of the river, in the wetland between the two sides of I-5, but this is too far away to be the home our local family. The beaver lodge isn't always a pile of sticks and branches; they sometimes burrow into the banks of streams or ponds. Despite constant scrutiny by visitors, they are seldom seen and there is a lot we don't know about our beavers. There are parts of the pond behind the Visitor Center that are not viewable from any trail, where their lodge may be located. In the end, I find it comforting that nobody knows for sure; it is a testament to their secretive nature. ✧

Published quarterly by the Friends of
Nisqually National Wildlife
Refuge Complex.
Phone: 360.753.9467
Fax: 360.534.9302
www.fws.gov/refuge/billy_frank_jr_nisqually
www.fws.gov/refuge/grays_harbor
Volume 9, Number 2
Editor: Susie Hayes
Editorial Advisors: Sheila McCartan,
Michael Schramm

Graphic design: Lee Miller

Save trees, think green.

To receive *The Flyway*
electronically, email
nisqually@fws.gov

Summer Programs

July

Saturday, July 2

It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

10am – 11:30am

The estuary is radiant with complex natural beauty. The Refuge's prized saltwater wetland is home to a multitude of insects, plants, amphibians, birds, and animals, all of them linked inextricably to create a single natural wonder! Learn about the big picture with naturalist Donna Snow. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Sunday, July 3

It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

10am – 11:30am

The estuary is radiant with complex natural beauty. The Refuge's prized saltwater wetland is home to a multitude of insects, plants, amphibians, birds, and animals, all of them linked inextricably to create a single natural wonder! Learn about the big picture with naturalist Donna Snow. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, July 9

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am – 11:30am

Experience the thrill of seeing a Peregrine Falcon (the world's fastest bird) or hearing a woodpecker pecking away (up to 20 pecks per second). Join experienced birder David Richardson for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures: the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, July 9

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

10am – 11:30am

Many species of bird, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle, nest on the Refuge. Join experienced birder Terry Hodge for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures – the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, July 10

Where All Things Converge: Geology, Hydrology, and Biology of the Delta

11am – 12 noon and 1pm – 2pm

What geologic forces shaped the landscape and ecosystems of the Nisqually Delta? How is it all connected? Join naturalist Mark Hunter for a presentation that is sure to transport you through the ages, and hopefully answer some of the big questions along the way! Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Sunday, July 10

The Nisqually and Medicine Creek: Where Nature, Culture and History Converge

1pm – 2:30pm

Learn about the events surrounding the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty. Explore how the Nisqually people came to the Nisqually delta and how their lives changed with the settlement of Europeans. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, July 10

It's in Your Nature: Sights and Sounds of Summer

1:30pm – 3pm

During this guided walk, your senses will be filled with bird song, bird sightings, and flowering native plants that are present on the Refuge during summer. Learn about and enjoy the variety of natural wonders that can be found on a walk around the Twin Barns Loop Trail with naturalist Sally Vogel. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, July 16

It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

9am – 10:30am

The estuary is radiant with complex natural beauty. It is home to a multitude of insects, plants, amphibians, birds, and animals, all of them linked inextricably to create a single natural wonder! Learn about the big picture with naturalist Mark Hunter. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, July 16

Raptors of the Delta

1pm – 2pm

The Peregrine Falcon, the Bald Eagle, the Northern Harrier, the Great Horned Owl: a variety of amazing raptors can be found on the delta, and each has a story to tell. Experienced birder Richard Cormier will reveal unique aspects of a raptor's journey through life in this short, illustrated program. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.



Sunday, July 17

Birds and Plants, Perfect Together!

10am – 11:45am

Plants and birds need each other to survive! There are numerous ways that birds rely upon plants to meet their needs, and many plant species would struggle, or even become extinct, if there were no birds. With naturalist Kim Adelson as your guide, explore these relationships and learn why birds prefer the habitats that they do! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, July 17

It's in Your Nature: Sights and Sounds of Summer

1:30pm – 3pm

During this guided walk, your senses will be filled with bird song, bird sightings, and flowering native plants that are present on the Refuge during summer. Learn about and enjoy the variety of natural wonders that can be found on a walk around the Twin Barns Loop Trail with naturalist Sally Vogel. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, July 23

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am – 11:30am

Experience the thrill of seeing a Peregrine Falcon (the world's fastest bird) or hearing a woodpecker pecking away (up to 20 pecks per second). Join experienced birder David Richardson for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures: the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, July 23

Raptors of the Delta

1pm – 2pm

The Peregrine Falcon, the Bald Eagle, the Northern Harrier, the Great Horned Owl: a variety of amazing raptors can

be found on the delta, and each has a story to tell. Experienced birder Richard Cormier will reveal unique aspects of a raptor's journey through life in this short, illustrated program. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Sunday, July 24

It's in Your Nature: Sights and Sounds of Summer

1:30pm – 3pm

During this guided walk, your senses will be filled with bird song, bird sightings, and flowering native plants that are present on the Refuge during summer. Learn about and enjoy the variety of natural wonders that can be found on a walk around the Twin Barns Loop Trail with naturalist Sally Vogel. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, July 30

It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

10am – 12 noon

From bitterns to butterflies, salmonberries to salmon fish, nature on the Refuge takes many forms. Join naturalists Art Pavey and Jan Kramer on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the natural splendor of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, July 30

Raptors of the Delta

1pm – 2pm

The Peregrine Falcon, the Bald Eagle, the Northern Harrier, the Great Horned Owl: a variety of amazing raptors can be found on the delta, and each has a story to tell. Experienced birder Richard Cormier will reveal unique aspects of a raptor's journey through life in this short, illustrated program. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

August

Saturday, August 6

A River Runs Through It

10:30am – 12 noon

Explore a rich and beautiful Riparian Forest: an old growth forest bordering the Nisqually River. Naturalist Ellen Sweetin will be your guide as you enter a world of amazing plants and trees, mammals and birds that have adapted to living with the ebb and flow of the tides. All ages welcome! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, August 7

Birds and Plants, Perfect Together!

10am – 11:45am

Plants and birds need each other to survive! There are numerous ways that birds rely upon plants to meet their needs, and many plant species would struggle, or even

become extinct, if there were no birds. With naturalist Kim Adelson as your guide, explore these relationships and learn why birds prefer the habitats that they do! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, August 13
***Where All Things Converge:
Geology, Hydrology, and
Biology of the Delta***

11am - 12 noon and 1pm - 2pm

What geologic forces shaped the landscape and ecosystems of the Nisqually Delta? How is it all connected? Join naturalist Mark Hunter for a presentation that is sure to transport you through the ages, and hopefully answer some of the big questions along the way! Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Sunday, August 14
***It's in Your Nature:
Exploring the Wild***

9am - 10:30am

The estuary is radiant with complex natural beauty. It is home to a multitude of insects, plants, amphibians, birds, and animals, all of them linked inextricably to create a single natural wonder! Learn about the big picture with naturalist Mark Hunter. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Sunday, August 14
A River Runs Through It

10:30am - 12 noon

Explore a rich and beautiful Riparian Forest: an old growth forest bordering the Nisqually River. Naturalist Ellen Sweetin will be your guide as you enter a world of amazing plants and trees, mammals and birds that have adapted to living with the ebb and flow of the tides. All ages welcome! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, August 14
Home Sweet Home

12 noon - 1pm

Enjoy a short walk through the various habitats of the Refuge, exploring all there is to see! Along the way, hear some tales of the Squalli Absch natives, farmer Brown, and the events surrounding the Medicine Creek Treaty. Meet Sue Stone at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, August 20
***Birds of a Feather:
Take Flight on a Bird Walk***

8:30am - 11:30am

Experience the thrill of seeing a Peregrine Falcon (the world's fastest bird) or hearing a woodpecker pecking away (up to 20 pecks per second). Join experienced birder

David Richardson for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures: the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, August 20
Raptors of the Delta

1pm - 2pm

The Peregrine Falcon, the Bald Eagle, the Northern Harrier, the Great Horned Owl: a variety of amazing raptors can be found on the delta, and each has a story to tell. Experienced birder Richard Cormier will reveal unique aspects of a raptor's journey through life in this short, illustrated program. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Sunday, August 21
A River Runs Through It

10:30am - 12 noon

Explore a rich and beautiful Riparian Forest: an old growth forest bordering the Nisqually River. Naturalist Ellen Sweetin will be your guide as you enter a world of amazing plants and trees, mammals and birds that have adapted to living with the ebb and flow of the tides. All ages welcome! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, August 27
***Birds of a Feather:
Take Flight on a Bird Walk***

10am - 11:30am

Many species of bird, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle, nest on the Refuge. Join experienced birder Terry Hodge for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures - the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.



Sunday, August 28
***The Nisqually and Medicine Creek:
Where Nature, Culture and History
Converge***

1pm - 2:30pm

Learn about the events surrounding the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty. Explore how the Nisqually people came to the Nisqually delta and how their lives changed with the settlement of Europeans. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

September

Saturday, September 10

A River Runs Through It

10:30am – 12 noon

Explore a rich and beautiful Riparian Forest: an old growth forest bordering the Nisqually River. Naturalist Ellen Sweetin will be your guide as you enter a world of amazing plants and trees, mammals and birds that have adapted to living with the ebb and flow of the tides. All ages welcome! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, September 11

Home Sweet Home

12 noon – 1pm

Enjoy a short walk through the various habitats of the Refuge, exploring all there is to see! Along the way, hear some tales of the Squalli Absch natives, farmer Brown, and the events surrounding the Medicine Creek Treaty. Meet Sue Stone at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, September 11

The Nisqually and Medicine Creek: Where Nature, Culture and History Converge

1pm – 2:30pm

Learn about the events surrounding the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty. Explore how the Nisqually people came to the Nisqually delta and how their lives changed with the settlement of Europeans. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, September 17

Birds and Plants, Perfect Together!

10am – 11:45am

Plants and birds need each other to survive! There are numerous ways that birds rely upon plants to meet their needs, and many plant species would struggle, or even become extinct, if there were no birds. With naturalist Kim Adelson as your guide, explore these relationships and learn why birds prefer the habitats that they do! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, September 17

Raptors of the Delta

1pm – 2pm

The Peregrine Falcon, the Bald Eagle, the Northern Harrier, the Great Horned Owl: a variety of amazing raptors can be found on the delta, and each has a story to tell. Experienced birder Richard Cormier will reveal unique aspects of a raptor's journey through life in this short, illustrated program. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Sunday, September 18

A River Runs Through It

10:30am – 12 noon

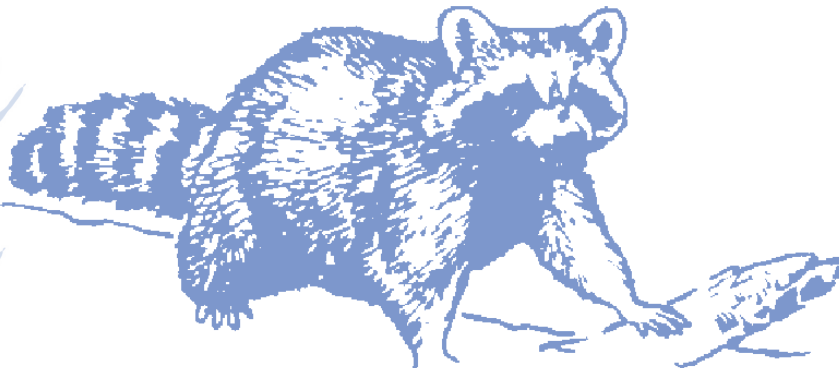
Explore a rich and beautiful Riparian Forest: an old growth forest bordering the Nisqually River. Naturalist Ellen Sweetin will be your guide as you enter a world of amazing plants and trees, mammals and birds that have adapted to living with the ebb and flow of the tides. All ages welcome! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, September 24

Nisqually Watershed Festival

10am – 4pm

Tours and guided walks through-out the day, as well as music, live animal presentations, educational exhibits, great food, a marine touch tank, and more! Join us in a celebration of the cultural, economic and natural resources of the Nisqually Watershed!



Junior Duck Stamp Contest Yields Wonderful Art!

by Michael Schramm

After many months of publicity and careful coordination, packages began arriving in early spring for the annual Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest, which in the state of Washington has been hosted by the Refuge since 1994. Opening the packages is always great fun. Children's artwork is fascinating and beautiful – who doesn't love kid art?! But the caliber of artwork received by the Refuge for this design contest is above and beyond what anyone would expect. The vibrancy of color and attention to detail is often stunning and is often difficult to tell some of the more advanced artwork from a photograph.

In fact, many visitors to the ongoing exhibit in our Visitor Center Auditorium initially mistake the artwork for a collection of photographs.

All of this effort culminated on March 30th, when the Refuge hosted the 2016 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest for the state of Washington. The contest is one aspect of the Junior Duck Stamp Educational Program, which can be utilized by schools to teach wildlife observation, waterfowl anatomy and habitat. Students may articulate their new found knowledge by drawing, painting or sketching a picture of an eligible North American waterfowl species.

This year's contest for Washington received 79 entries from across the state. The high quality artwork from all the young artists made for a very competitive contest. The judging panel consisted of five judges: Robyn Thorson (Regional Director, US Fish & Wildlife Service Northwest Region), Jim Unsworth (Director, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife), Shelley Carr (local artist), Dale Thompson (retired Chief Naturalist at Mt. Rainier National Park and local wildlife artist) and Ryan Perry (local wildlife artist and former two-time WA Junior Duck Stamp Best of Show winner).

Judges selected three 1st place, three 2nd place, three 3rd place, and up to sixteen Honorable Mention winners from

four groups based on grade level (K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12th grade). Out of all the 1st place winners in from each group, a Best of Show was selected to represent Washington at the national competition held April 22 at the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge in Sanibel, Florida. This year's 1st place winners were Akhila Pattamatta, Aliya Tang, Erika Voiculescu, Aiden Bai, Alice Tang, Evelyn Tsang, Audrey Chang, Donna Ferdows, Junha Lee, Kaite Chamberlain Crystyn Rocheleau and Talor Leback. The Best of Show winner selected from among these artists depicted a Green-winged Teal and was painted by Crystyn Rocheleau, 17 years old, from Vancouver. Congratulations



to Crystyn and all the winners in this year's Washington Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest!

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest would not be possible without the efforts of volunteers, who assist both with the contest itself and with all the year-round program publicity and outreach throughout the state. A huge debt of gratitude is also owed to the Friends of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge for their generous financial support.

The exhibit of this year's winners is now on display in the Visitor Center at Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR. A traveling exhibit will travel throughout Washington State to colleges, libraries, education centers, art galleries/museums, festivals, and fairs. If interested, contact Byrn Watson at (360)736-1082. ✎

2016 Summer Lecture Series

The 29th Annual Summer Lecture Series at Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR will be held Wednesday evenings in July and August.

Location: All lectures will be held in the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Take I-5 exit 114 and follow signs to the Refuge.

July 6 Medicine Creek Treaty

Cynthia Iyall
Leschi Descendent
Nisqually Tribe Member

August 3 Common Northwest Marine Invertebrates

Don Ehlen
Educator, Entomologist
Insect Safari

July 13 Adapting to Change: Climate Impacts and Innovation in Puget Sound

Lara Whitely Binder, Senior Strategist
Climate Impacts Group
University of Washington

August 10 Oregon Spotted Frog: Natural History, Threats, and Recovery

Teal Waterstrat
Deanna Lynch
Fish and Wildlife Biologists
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

July 20 Antarctica: Past, Present, and Penguins

Nancy Wells
Naturalist, Photographer

August 17 Refuge Through the Lens

Ed Castleberry
Nature Photographer

July 27 Northwest Bats, Their Habits and Protection

Jim Nieland
Geologist, Nieland Consulting

August 24 Global and Northwest Issues with Amphibians

Marc Hayes
Senior Research Scientist
Washington Department of
Fish and Wildlife

Time: The lectures start at 7pm and will last approximately one hour followed by questions. Doors open at 6pm.

Entrance Fee: The Refuge entrance fee is waived for those attending the lectures. All lectures are free.

Special Accommodations: Persons with disabilities who require accommodations should contact the Refuge at (360)753-9467.

Seating: The Norm Dicks Visitor Center auditorium seats 100 people. Attendance is limited to seats available. Seating will not be available prior to 6pm. While some lectures reach capacity, others will not.

The trails are open until sunset.

Additional Notes: On lecture nights, the Visitor Center will be open until 7pm and after the lecture. Thanks to Friends of Nisqually NWR Complex for their support of the Summer Lecture Series. ✂

Wonder of Nature Celebrated at Shorebird Festival

By Michael Schramm

The annual transcontinental shorebird migration is one of the great spectacles of nature. How remarkable that almost the entire global population of a species would journey from one hemisphere to another in a delicately timed dance, synchronizing movement with weather and food, the cycles of life hanging in the balance! For every step of the journey, things must all be in their right place. The estuaries the birds depend on are like connecting dots on up the west coast, each must have an abundance

Festivities at Hoquiam High School, festival headquarters, included a variety of vendors, food, and great activities for kids and families. A wonderful sight to behold is the “procession of the shorebirds” as masked and winged children make their way through the school celebrating this seasonal migration.

Keynote speaker Robert Michael Pyle gave an inspiring talk about butterflies in Western Washington. Applying his artistic and philosophical sensibilities, he used personal and historic anecdotes to demonstrate how actions have

unanticipated consequences, how human expectations are foiled by the complex realities of the natural world, and how all of this relates to butterflies. The mysteries of the butterfly realm have much to reveal, but often the more one learns, the more one understands how much more is left to learn. The only thing left to do is get out in the field with a butterfly net and see what’s happening!

During the Saturday social and annual dinner, wildlife biologist Ken Bevis educated and entertained featuring a slide show and a live performance of original music enjoyed by all. After the dinner, participants donated over \$4300 to the Grays Harbor NWR education fund managed by Grays Harbor Audubon Society. This

money will be used to directly support classroom presentations and field trips to Grays Harbor NWR for local students. Thanks to all who contributed to this important effort in our community.

About 1,300 visitors participated in festival activities this year. The whole event required a herculean and deeply appreciated effort to run and coordinate. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out for the weekend to support the event and make it possible each year. Also, a big thanks to the Festival’s sponsors including the City of Hoquiam, Grays Harbor Audubon Society, Nisqually and Grays Harbor NWRs, Washington Conservation Corps, Washington Service Corps/AmeriCorps, Port of Grays Harbor, and many others!

More details on the 2016 festival can be found at www.shorebirdfestival.com. This fall the shorebirds can be seen on their incredible journey south from mid-July through September. ✈



Congratulations to Cosmopolis Elementary School 4th grader Isaiah Johnson, who won Best of Show at this year’s Shorebird Festival Poster Contest for his portrayal of three Sanderlings.

of food. Grays Harbor is one of these critical locations. The Shorebird Festival is all about bearing witness to this amazing journey.

Birds by the hundreds of thousands – again, virtually the entire global population – pass through during an astonishingly narrow window in time. For the birds, it’s about survival as they race north to reproduce during the short Alaskan summer. They would never suspect that they are also serving to bring people together from all over the region for the annual Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival! This year’s Festival, held May 6-8, fell in the latter part of the spring migration, offering visitors a chance to see a diversity of species including some not normally present. Red Knots in particular were a treat for many bird lovers. Overall, the migration peaked April 29 when 39,472 shorebirds were counted at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge, but numbers remained high through at least May 7th.

Critter Cart Showcases Unique Qualities of Local Wildlife

By Susan Wineke

Some weekends, a Critter Cart stands near the Refuge's fee station kiosk to entice summer walkers into meeting some vertebrate artifacts up close. Visitors of all ages can explore and touch skins, skulls, and much more, allowing those who might otherwise not have time to enter the Visitor Center an opportunity to develop a connection to the wildlife living on the Refuge.

Children especially enjoy touching the fur pelts of coyote, beaver, and harbor seal on the table. Visitors who examine replicas of skulls can observe how the teeth reveal an animal's diet – a carnivore, an herbivore or an omnivore. The volunteer who staffs the cart can point out how these animals have adapted to their habitat in the Nisqually area. For example, the beaver's hind paws are webbed just like a duck's, making it a stronger swimmer.

Two artifacts usually draw the biggest smiles. Young children are often magically engaged by the replica of a tiny hummingbird egg. It's hard to believe an oval smaller than a jellybean can

house a future baby bird! And to whom does that heavy long bone belong? It's a rib bone of a Minke whale whose cousins swim the waters of Puget Sound.

So next time you see the Critter Cart, be sure to stop by and take a closer look! You won't be disappointed! ✂



Spectators view wildlife at this year's Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival

New and Renewing Friends Membership

Spring 2016

Senior/Student (\$15)

Mary Downey
Peggy Brink
Bonnie Benard
Peter Seidman
Michael E. Walker
Steven MacDonald
Ralph Norris

Individual (\$25)

Lisa McCart
Suna Todd
Fred Ramalho
Amy Joyht
Cori Halverson
Sandia Slaby
Wendy Lippmann
Mary Frey

Family (\$50)

John & Sylvie Howard
Donna Dwing & Sue Minahan
Alaka Lindsley
John & Elly Walkowiak
Karen & Dave Ditzler

Supporting (\$100)

Kimberly & Craig Watson
Jean Takekawa
Mary Goodsell



Friends of Nisqually NWR Complex

is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1998 to promote conservation of the natural and cultural resources and fund educational and outreach programs at **Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex.**

Join Friends of Nisqually NWRC!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

- ☐ Please send information on making Friends of Nisqually NWRC a beneficiary of my estate.
☐ Check here to receive an electronic version of *The Flyway* newsletter by email.

Individual/Family Memberships

- ☐ \$15 Student/Senior
☐ \$25 Individual
☐ \$50 Family
☐ \$100 Supporting
☐ \$250 Partner
☐ \$500 Patron
☐ \$1000 Benefactor

Corporate/Business Memberships

- ☐ \$250 Business Sponsor
☐ \$500 Community Partner
☐ \$1000 Sustaining Business
☐ \$2500 Corporate Patron
☐ \$5000 + Corporate Benefactor

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Nisqually NWRC, 100 Brown Farm Rd, Olympia, WA 98516

Your tax deductible contribution will help preserve the unique habitats, fish, and wildlife of the Nisqually Delta and the Grays Harbor Tideflats.

OFFICE USE Rec'd _____ Mo _____ New _____ Renew _____ Ent _____ Mld _____

**Friends of Nisqually
National Wildlife Refuge**

100 Brown Farm Road
Olympia WA 98516

Non-Profit Org
US Postage

PAID

Olympia WA
Permit #206

Return Service Requested

... conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people...

You are invited to the 27th Annual
Nisqually Watershed Festival!

Saturday, September 24th at Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR, from 10am–4pm
All events are free(except the food!)

Great fun for the whole family. Join us and celebrate the cultural, economic, and natural resources of the Nisqually Watershed!

- ▶ Music and live animal presentations
- ▶ Tours and guided walks throughout the day
- ▶ Great educational displays from around the area
- ▶ Red Salmon tent, storytelling, and critters parades
- ▶ Marine viewing tank
- ▶ Check out the Nature Explore Area for children
- ▶ And of course, the yummy food!

For more information, go to
www.nisquallyriver.org
or call **(360) 753-9467**



The Salmon Print table, which is just one of many unique activities at the Nisqually Watershed Festival. Here, visitors can paint a real salmon and use it to make a colorful and beautifully textured print.